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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/727,931

Examiner

Viet Vu

Applicant(s)

COMSTOCK ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Interview on November 23, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-12, 14-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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Examiner's Amendment:

An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by Mr. Allen via a telephone interview on November 23, 2007.

The specification has been amended as follows:

In page 1, paragraph 1, line 3, after "by the same inventors and with the same title," inserting "--now U.S. patent No. 6,704,769,--.

In the claims:

the claims are amended below

1-8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) A multimedia conferencing device comprising:

a network interface for coupling with at least one multimedia conferencing device in a conference;

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a switch coupled to the network interface, wherein the switch receiving one or more media streams from one or more sources, each switch responsive to a control signal for selecting one or more of media streams to output as switched outputs; ~~and~~

a policy manager coupled to the switch, wherein the policy manager generates the control signal for the switch according to a predetermined policy that depends at least in part on one or more labels associated with the one or more media streams and indicating a role of the one or more media streams; and

a capability manager coupled to the policy manager, wherein the capability manager negotiates the communication capability with the coupled multimedia conference device.

10. (original) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 9, wherein the policy includes assigning hierarchical roles to streams, wherein the hierarchy of roles are indicated by labels in the media streams.

11. (original) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 9, wherein the switched outputs include at least people stream and content stream.

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12. (original) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 11, wherein the people stream is displayed on a people display; and wherein the content stream is displayed on a content display.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 9, wherein the capability manager negotiates the supported levels of hierarchy of roles and collapses the unsupported levels of roles to the lowest supported level.

15. (currently amended) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 9, further comprising:

a token manager coupled to the capability manager, wherein each token represents the source of a role, wherein the token manager maintains the identity of the exclusive holder of the token within the conference.

16. (original) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 9, further comprising:

a converter coupled to the network interface, wherein the converter is configured to detect a first role signal of a received media stream, convert the first role signal into a

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second role signal for the media stream, and retransmit the media stream.

17. (original) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 9, further comprising:

a microphone, a camera, a speaker and a first video display, all of which are coupled to the switch.

18. (original) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 17, wherein a video stream of a first role is displayed on a first section of the first video display; and

wherein a video stream of a second role is displayed on a second section of the first video display.

19. (original) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 17, further comprising:

a second video display;

wherein a video stream of a first role is displayed on the first video display; and

wherein a video stream of a second role is displayed on the second video display.

20. (new) A multimedia conferencing device comprising:

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a network interface for coupling with at least one multimedia conferencing device in a conference;

a switch coupled to the network interface, wherein the switch receiving one or more media streams from one or more sources, each switch responsive to a control signal for selecting one or more of media streams to output as switched outputs;

a policy manager coupled to the switch, wherein the policy manager generates the control signal for the switch according to a predetermined policy that depends at least in part on one or more labels associated with the one or more media streams and indicating a role of the one or more media streams; and

a converter coupled to the network interface, wherein the converter is configured to:

detect a first role signal of a received media stream;
convert the first role signal into a second role signal for the media stream; and

retransmit the media stream.

21. (new) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 20, wherein the policy includes assigning hierarchical roles to streams, wherein the hierarchy of roles are indicated by labels in the media streams.

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22. (new) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 20 wherein the switched outputs include at least people stream and content stream.

23. (new) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 22, wherein the people stream is displayed on a people display; and wherein the content stream is displayed on a content display.

24. (new) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 20, further comprising:

a microphone, a camera, a speaker and a first video display, all of which are coupled to the switch.

25. (new) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 24, wherein a video stream of a first role is displayed on a first section of the first video display; and

wherein a video stream of a second role is displayed on a second section of the first video display.

26. (new) The multimedia conferencing device in Claim 24, further comprising:

a second video display;

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wherein a video stream of a first role is displayed on the first video display; and

wherein a video stream of a second role is displayed on the second video display.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Viet Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-3977. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 4:00pm. The Group general information number is 571-272-2100. The Group fax number is 571-273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn, can be reached on 571-272-1915.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



VIET D. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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11/29/07